

Black History Month (BHM)

Leeds11, Partners & Friends

Celebratory Black History Month Programme

October 2021

Introduction

Leeds11 Black and Minority Ethnic Staff Network, its Partners and Friends are very Proud To Be bringing you our Celebratory Programme for Black History Month 2021.

Against the backdrop and legacy of the past, and its impact on lives then and today, the opportunity really does exist for us all to strive harder, dig deeper, look closer, think bigger and shout louder about the fantastic achievements of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic people everywhere!

....and beyond Black History Month?...

Let us continue acknowledging, recognising, commemorating, and celebrating Black Excellence.

For this Black History Month, Leeds11, our Partners and Friends have chosen a rich and varied programme of thought-provoking contributions that are both international and local in focus.

Leeds11, Partner and Friends BHM 2021 Planning Committee

Overview: BHM 2021 Partner & Friends Programme

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Fri 1-Oct 2021

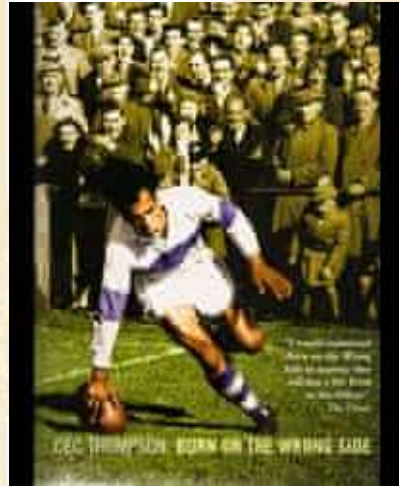
Welcome!

Leeds11, its Partners & Friends are excited to welcome you to Black History Month.

We are Proud To Be launching this, our Celebratory Black History Month programme for October 2021!

To set the scene for a great Black History Month ahead, please see our Partner Programme below.

**Cec Thompson:
The most remarkable of graduates**



The second black player to represent Great Britain in a rugby league test match

Cec Thompson

The Leeds University Alumni Office is extremely Proud To Be commemorating BHM and the life story of Cec Thompson.

When Leeds alumnus [Cec Thompson](#) (Economics 1968, Hon MA 1994) stepped onto a rugby field at the age of 22, he didn't know the rules of the game. Just three years later, he became the second ever black rugby league player for Great Britain. This remarkable rise on the field is matched only by his achievements off it, as he pushed himself from illiteracy to graduation. This Black History Month, discover his story.

[Article/Blog details here](#)

Mon 4-Oct 2021

Achievements of BME women colleagues and students at Leeds

Women at Leeds Network (WALN) celebrate the achievements of BME women colleagues and students at Black History Month using the hashtag **#ProudToBe**. Sharing stories and raising voices from across the Women at Leeds Network. Follow [WALN @Women at UoL](#) to join in! [Twitter event details here.](#)

Weds 6-Oct 2021

Leeds University Library & The Faculty of Medicine & Health are Proud To Be supporting our Celebratory Black History Month Partner Programme

Leeds University Library

In support of Leeds11, its Partners and Friends, we are Proud To Be sharing with you our programme of events and activities celebrating and championing Black voices for Black History Month 2021. This showcase of diverse, educational, creative, and cultural resources offers a wealth of existing and newly available resources that, throughout history and today, document the lives and experiences of people of colour. As a series of informative, knowledge-for-all, and available-to-all resources, we do hope you enjoy our contribution for BHM and beyond.

[See our Blogs here](#) / [& here](#)

The Faculty of Medicine & Health

Black History Month has been celebrated in the UK for more than 30 years. The Faculty of Medicine & Health are proud to join these celebrations and have strongly encouraged all their staff and students to take the time to attend at least one of the events showcased by Leeds11, Partners & Friends. We are reminded that Black History Month is a time for us all to learn about black history, show support for BAME staff and students and celebrate the extraordinary cultural diversity inside and outside of our University Community. [Have a look, join in and enjoy our partner programme of BHM activities.](#)

Weds 6-Oct 2021

2pm–3.30pm (UK time)

"Never Not Political: Studying Sufism in the Black Atlantic"



Dr Youssef Carter

Leeds Muslim Staff Network (MSN) and partners are Proud To Be hosting Dr Youssef Carter, Associate Professor, University of North Carolina. His talk offers an overview of his own reflections gained from the ethnographic study of African American and West African Muslims who are members of the Mustafawi Sufi Order. Dr Carter who holds a Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of California-Berkeley and is an expert in Sufism and Islam in West Africa and the United States, will provide commentary on what, he argues, is a necessary convergence between Islamic Studies and Black Studies.

[Online Presentation details here](#)

Capoeira for Black History Month

Join us!

Thurs 7-Oct 2021

Leeds11, Partners and Friends are Proud To Be spotlighting Capoeira for BHM.

BHM Capoeira Kickboxing Fusion Class

12.45pm–1.30pm (UK time)

Capoeira was born from the enslavement of Africans in Brazil. African tribes were able to preserve and express their own cultural practices and protect themselves from the cruelties of their European captors by using music and a lack of physical contact between an opponent to disguise the protective nature of Capoeira's cultural and martial resistance. Capoeira was criminalized in Brazil in 1890 with fatal consequences for those practicing it. Since its legalization in 1940, Capoeira has become the national sport of Brazil and an international phenomenon through its promotion of diversity, respect, fitness, and discipline.



Andrew Donaldson

For BHM, Leeds11, Partners & Friends are very Proud To Be sharing the Brazilian tradition of Capoeira with you.

This lunchtime why not experience Capoeira for yourself? Join Andrew Donaldson, Personal Trainer from The Edge for this fun and free participatory Capoeira based exercise class. Moving at your own pace, enjoy the fusion of music, movement and exercise that characterises this rhythmic martial art practice.



<https://www.capoeira.ws/capoeira/>

[Livestream details here](#)

The Diversity Conversation: Prof Edgar Meyer meets alumna Caroline Abel for Black History Month

Join us!



Caroline Abel

Fri 15-Oct 2021

Leeds University Business School are very Proud To Be celebrating the achievements of alumna **[Caroline Abel](#)**, (BA Economics, 1999), Governor of the Central Bank of the Seychelles and Seychelles Economist who will be speaking to the School's **[Deputy Dean, Professor Edgar Meyer](#)** as part of the Leeds University Business School's celebration of Black History Month with the theme 'Proud To Be'.

Caroline is the first woman to hold the position of Governor in Seychelles being appointed in 2012. In 2015 Caroline was presented with the African Female Public Servant of the Year Award by the African Leadership Magazine and was also awarded a special Commendation Award by the US Georgia Legislative Black Caucus at the same event. In August and December 2020, Caroline was named Central Bank Governor of the year by the African Banker Awards Committee and was one of the recipients of the Africa's Women Leaders Awards, respectively. Hear about her role and experiences in leading change and how she overcame challenge to become a successful and influential black woman.

[Podcast details here](#)

'Covid-19 & the Racial Valuation of Diseases'



Professor Matiangai Sirleaf

Thurs 21-Oct 2021

3pm-4.15pm (UK time)

Leeds Centre for Ethnicity and Racism (CERS) presents [Professor Matiangai Sirleaf](#), Nathan Patz Professor of Law at the University of Maryland School of Law (USA). This talk develops a theoretical framework for racial valuation and applies it to the racialisation of the novel coronavirus. This framework captures how racial valuation reflects racialised beliefs from slavery, colonialism, and neocolonialism, which persist today and have influenced the racial valuation of diseases. Significant legal and institutional reform is necessary to shift how people, society, and laws respond to diseases depending upon the racial populations most impacted. Leeds11, its Partners and Friends are very Proud To Be supporting CERS and this event for Black History Month 2021.

[Zoom event details here](#)

Fri 22-Oct 2021

Join us!

1 pm-5pm (UK time)

Increasing the representation of African scholars on Wikipedia: An Editathon for Black History Month

Leeds University Centre for African Studies (LUCAS) / Wikimedia UK / Leeds University Library are Proud To Be shining a spotlight on representation. Because Wikipedia is powered by humans, it is also vulnerable to human biases and there are huge discrepancies in the site's coverage. Major gaps exist in the percentage of Wikipedia content written by and about black people. There are more articles about the Netherlands than the whole continent of Africa! This event will focus on increasing the representation of African scholars across the site. A suite of resources will be provided.

[Online Editathon details here](#)

Mon 25-Oct 2021

2pm-3.30pm (UK time)

TRIPLE THREAT: How owning your identity is your Superpower

Sister Na'ima B Robert



Leeds Muslim Staff Network and Partners are extremely Proud To Be presenting Na'ima B. Robert, Award-winning Author, Editor, International Speaker and Coach from Yorkshire.

Hear insights into leveraging your intersectional identity informed from investigations into the correlation between how you 'show up' in your various identities and your performance in your spiritual, personal, and professional life.

[Online Presentation details here](#)

Tues 26-Oct 2021

12noon-1pm (UK time)

**The first ever
Black Lord Mayor of Leeds
Councillor Eileen Taylor**



Councillor Eileen Taylor

The Women at Leeds Network (WALN) and Leeds11, Partners and Friends are very Proud To Be celebrating the first ever Black Lord Mayor of Leeds, Councillor Eileen Taylor. Hear Councillor Taylor speak about her personal experience of overcoming discrimination and working for equality in Leeds. Enjoy this Women at Leeds Network online event for BHM. All are welcome.

[Zoom event details here](#)

Join the Women at Leeds Network on Microsoft Teams, or their mailing list to receive updates about this and other events.

Leeds11, Partners and Friends are Proud to be celebrating the Windrush Plaque Trail

The Windrush Plaque Trail is a series of commemorative and celebratory plaques of people from Leeds recognised for their significant cultural, social, and economic contributions to the City. Led by the Lord Mayor Councillor Eileen Taylor with community representatives (for Black History Month 2019), the Windrush Plaque Trail maps nominated individuals, community groups/ organisations, to places of interest and events important to the Windrush generation in Leeds.

[Online resource details here](#)

The Windrush Plaque Trail

- 1 Cllr Eileen Taylor - Lord Mayor 2019, Antechamber - Civic Hall
- 2 Leeds General Infirmary
- 3 Errol James MBE, Town Hall
- 4 Leeds Railway Station
- 5 Mr St Clair Morris, Merrion House
- 6 St James's University Hospital
- 7 Reverend Nelson, New Testament Church of God
- 8 Annette Francis nee Liburd, BAME Hub
- 9 Reginald Centre
- 10 Allan Herbert, Carnival House
- 11 Mrs Diana Phillip, Leeds West Indian Centre
- 12 Grantley Bovell, Mandela Centre
- 13 Veryl Harriott, Chapeltown CAB
- 14 Mr James A Saddler, Roscoe Church

Leeds City Council logo and Leeds University logo.

Weds 27-Oct 2021

Knowledge for All: Improving the discoverability and accessibility of creative and cultural resources

Phoenix Dance Theatre

Founded in 1981 by three black British men from Harehills, Leeds, and one of the UK's leading contemporary dance companies.



[Phoenix Dance Theatre](#)

RJC Dance

The leading inclusive Black dance organisation in the North empowering children, young people and adults through dance, movement, and exercise.



[RJC Dance](#)

Leeds University Library are Proud To Be sharing with you their BHM project by Library Archivists to add to and improve the catalogue records of the Phoenix Dance Theatre, RJC Dance and African Theatre collections. In this blog, learn more about these key records and the focus on improving the records for the creators associated with the collections such as artistic directors, dancers, and playwrights. Find out about the approach taken to improve the links to associated material to improve the discoverability and accessibility of these collections. [Blog details here](#)

12.30pm (UK time)



**Supa Modo
(Hyde & Seek)**

<https://www.hydeparkpicturehouse.co.uk/film/supa-modo>

Leeds11, Partners and Friends are Proud To Be bringing you this family-friendly Hyde Park Picture House Screening for Black History Month.

Jo, a witty 9-year-old terminally ill girl is taken back to her rural village to live out the rest of her short life. Her only comfort during these dull times are her dreams of being a Superhero, which prove to be something her rebellious teenage sister Mwix, overprotective mother Kathryn and the entire village of Maweni think they can fulfil. [In person screening @](#)

[The Tetley](#)

This screening is a collaboration between Hyde Park Picture House and [The Tetley](#) to support their [Superheroes of Leeds exhibition](#), (Adult only screening 6.00pm). Popcorn Provided / Free to pay as much or as little as you can afford. Pay What You Can!, Book in advance. To be accompanied by a FREE [Magical Superheroes Cape Workshop](#) / no booking required. Wheelchair access / Parent and child room available.

4.30pm-6pm (UK time)

Reimagining Christianity and Sexual Diversity in Africa

Leeds11, Partners and Friends are Proud To Be presenting the Inaugural lecture by Adriaan van Klinken, Professor of Religion and African Studies, University of Leeds.

This lecture explores how African thinkers, writers, activists, and artists contribute to the re-imagination of sexuality and Christianity in contemporary Africa, and how they debunk monolithic narratives of "African homophobia" and "religious homophobia", thus opening queer African futures.

[On Campus/In-person lecture details here](#)

To conclude our BHM 2021 celebrations...

**The University of Leeds LGBTQ+ Staff Network,
with the support of Leeds11, Partners &
Friends are Proud To Be...**

Challenging Racial Inequalities in Queer Spaces

For Black History Month, we, the LGBTQ+ Staff Network are committing to learning and exchanging knowledge on how best to advocate for the recognition of privilege. As a Network, we believe that by effectively challenging the existing power structures that inadvertently reinforce and perpetuate injustice through inaction, we can break down some of the deeply entrenched social and societal barriers that prevent participation in queer spaces. Our work in this area will therefore focus on existing racial inequalities that exist in most (if not all) queer spaces. [We invite you to read more here.](#) If you are interested in hearing more about our work, working with us, have an information request or need support, get in touch! We welcome your contact!

...and beyond Black History Month

Join us, our Leeds11 Partners and Friends, as we strive to create more equitable, truly inclusive, and genuinely welcoming queer spaces.

Many [BAME texts](#) and related resources, ([as exemplified here](#)) seek to address the racial inequalities that exist in most (if not all) queer spaces. The knowledge and learning gained from our work in this area will inform a series of monthly self-improvement workshops commencing January 2022. These workshops will offer attendees a safe space to understand how racial inequalities in queer spaces can be challenged.

Email: LGBT@leeds.ac.uk

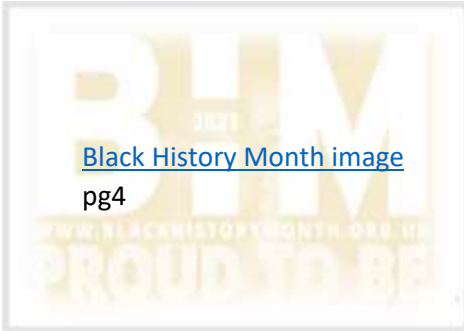

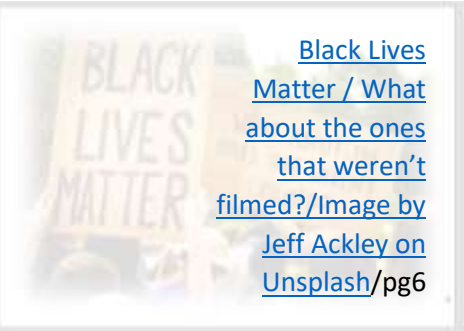


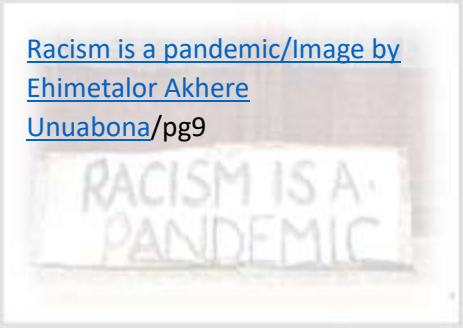
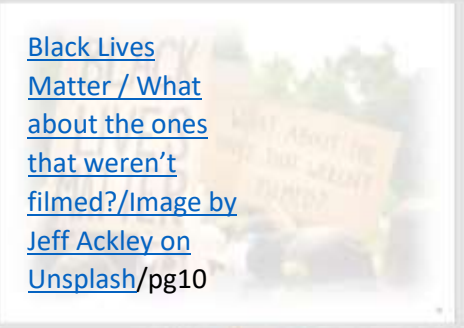
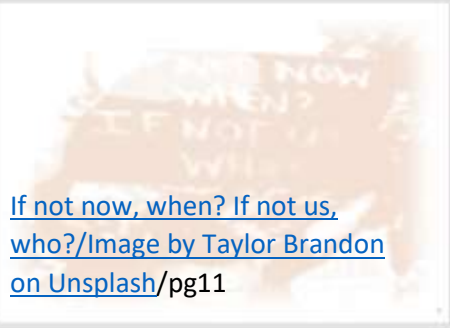
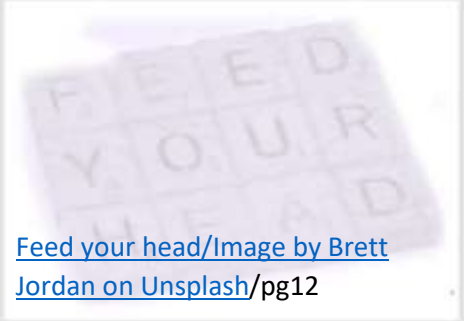



With thanks

The Leeds 11, Black and Minority Ethnic Staff Network would like to thank all our Black History Month Champions, Supporters, Partners and Friends, in front of and behind the scenes, who gave their commitment and made our 2021 Black History Month programme possible.

- Leeds University BHM 2021 Planning Committee
- University of Leeds
- The Equality and Inclusion Unit
- Leeds11, Black and Minority Ethnic Staff Network
- Women at Leeds Network (WALN)
- Leeds University Library
- Leeds University Faculty of Medicine & Health
- Leeds Muslim Staff Network (MSN)
- The Edge
- Leeds University Business School (LUBS)
- Leeds Centre for Ethnicity and Racism (CERS)
- Wikipedia UK
- Leeds City Council
- Civic Trust Leeds
- Hyde Park Picture House
- The Tetley
- Leeds Inspired
- Leeds University Centre for African Studies (LUCAS)
- University of Leeds LGBTQ+ Staff Network
- Leeds University Internal Communications Office
- Dr Youssef Carter
- Andrew Donaldson
- Caroline Abel
- Professor Edgar Meyer
- Professor Matiangai Sirleaf
- Richard Nevell
- Professor Adriaan Van Klinken
- Na'ima B. Roberts
- Councillor Eileen Taylor

Leeds11, Black & Minority Ethnic Staff Network Chairs
Iyiola Solanke & Brenda Phillips
b.phillips@leeds.ac.uk

BHM 2021 programme pages: backdrop images

 <p>Black History Month image pg4</p>	 <p>George Floyd/Image by Mana5280 on pg5</p>	 <p>Black Lives Matter / What about the ones that weren't filmed?/Image by Jeff Ackley on Unsplash/pg6</p>	 <p>If not now, when? If not us, who?/Image by Taylor Brandon on Unsplash/pg7</p>
 <p>BP Collage of backdrop images/pg8</p>	 <p>Racism is a pandemic/Image by Ehimetalor Akhere Unuabona/pg9</p>	 <p>Black Lives Matter / What about the ones that weren't filmed?/Image by Jeff Ackley on Unsplash/pg10</p>	 <p>If not now, when? If not us, who?/Image by Taylor Brandon on Unsplash/pg11</p>
 <p>Feed your head/Image by Brett Jordan on Unsplash/pg12</p>	 <p>Head under umbrella/Image by Hurst Publishers/pg13</p>	 <p>Born this way / Image by Bruno Aguirre on Unsplash/pg14</p>	 <p>George Floyd/Image by Mana5280 on Unsplash/pg15</p>



BHM 2021 #ProudToBe

Leeds11, Partners & Friends

Thank you